

# Construction Careers

The construction industry is the biggest industry in the nation. It accounts for more than \$800 billion annual in the United States. Nearly 5 million men and women are employed in the



construction industry, and in the years to come even more will be needed.

Career opportunities are nearly unlimited in the construction industry. There are many different jobs for many different people. Each has its own advantages, responsibilities, and rewards for those who are qualified. Salaries are flexible, they depend on you; your abilities, effort, initiative, and dedication are the major factors. Some construction careers require specialized training, while others require a broad understanding of the total project, gained only after years of experience.

Construction is truly an industry where men and women can start at the bottom and work their way to the top.

Construction company owners often begin their careers in the trades. Because of the physical

labor associated with the industry, many once believed it was a "man's world", but modern technology and changing attitudes have created exciting opportunities for men and women. With training and experience, construction employees can move steadily along a career path, learning while they earn a great living.

Whatever construction career you choose, you will need the well-rounded educational background offered in your public school system. By choosing your courses wisely, you can get a head start on concepts you will use when you join the workforce.

Should you choose to go on to college, the knowledge you learn now will be the foundation for more advanced courses to build on.

Some of the educational requirements for all fields within the construction industry are as follows:

❑ **COMMUNICATIONS**--All the career paths require your ability to read and

comprehend what you read. You must be able to communicate both in written form and verbally. In addition to basic English courses offered, we suggest you elect a public speaking course.

❑ **MATHEMATICS**--You must be proficient in basic math in order to succeed in the construction industry. If you choose the field of engineering as a career, you should master the advanced math curriculum in addition to basic math.

❑ **SCIENCE**--As a supplement to the basic science knowledge learned in high school, you will find it helpful to gain an understanding of the physical sciences, particularly if you have chosen engineering as a career.

❑ **BUSINESS**--All the basic business courses will be useful in the construction fields. Should you choose accounting/financing as your career, take all the business courses offered.

❑ **ART**--If you choose architecture as your career you will find



art courses helpful. Some colleges require a portfolio as part of their entrance requirement.

❑ **DRAFTING**--If your school offers courses in design/drafting, it's a good idea to take them. You will need the background for surveying or land planning, architecture and engineering.

❑ **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**--Depending what your school offers, building trade courses can give you some valuable "hands on" knowledge to help you learn basic field skills.

These are basic guidelines; your guidance counselor can help you with specific course/career planning. The most important thing to remember is that whether or not you plan to go to college, you need your high school education.

For additional information contact:  
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